

Specified Risk Materials SRMs

I. EU definition:

The EU definition of SRMS is different then the US definition. The EU considers SRMS to include:

- the skull excluding the mandible and including the brain and eyes, the vertebral column excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the transverse processes of the lumbar and thoracic vertebrae and the wings of the sacrum, but including dorsal root ganglia, and the spinal cord of bovine animals aged over 12 months, and the tonsils, the intestines from the duodenum to the rectum and the mesentery of bovine animals of all ages;
- the skull including the brain and eyes, the tonsils and the spinal cord of ovine and caprine animals aged over 12 months or which have a permanent incisor erupted through the gum, and the spleen and ileum of ovine and caprine animals of all ages;
- entire carcasses if the above materials are not removed;
- mechanically recovered meat produced after 03/31/01 from the bones of cows, sheep, or goats; **← APHIS-VS has determined this only applies to those materials recovered from bones that are SRMs. Where mechanically recovered meat can be verified to be derived from non-SRM bones, that meat would not be an SRM.**
- animals that were slaughtered by means of gas injection into the cranial cavity or killed by the same method or slaughtered by laceration after stunning of central nervous system by means of elongated rod-shaped instrument introduced into the cranial cavity.**

**After consulting with FSIS in D.C. Veterinary Services has determined that the captive bolt is used in most plants. There are 2 types of captive bolts: one using a cartridge similar to a bullet to drive the bolt into the brain and the other using air (pneumatic captive bolt) to drive the bolt into the brain (air is not injected into the cranial cavity). Both of these methods are acceptable and do not fall under the banned methods described above.

II. Individual EU country definitions:

Some EU member countries, e.g., France, may have more extensive SRM definitions. Where APHIS is aware of these expanded SRM requirements, the requirements will be posted under the pertinent member country on the International Animal Product Export Regulations (IREGs). Approval by APHIS of a facility as meeting the requirements of Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 does not mean that facilities meet the requirements to export to all EU member countries.

III. Special SRM certificates:

Some EU member countries require additional SRM certification statements to be added to the below certificates for animal by-products intended for animal consumption. The exporter must confirm before requesting endorsement of an export certificate what, if any, precise statements are required. The exporter can generally have their importer obtain this information from the Ministry of Animal Health in the importing country. In cases where the exporter confirms that these statements are required, this information must be included on the same certificate (additional page if needed). The VS Area Office can assist the exporter in understanding the proper formatting to add an additional page to the certificate.

IV. FSIS SRM definition:

It must be noted that the FSIS definition of SRMS is different from the EU definition of SRMS. In 2004, FSIS promulgated regulations requiring the removal of SRMs from certain products for human consumption. However, the FSIS list of SRMS, and list of commodities from which SRMs must be removed, is different from the EU definition and requirements, and therefore not relevant to facilities seeking approval under Regulation (EC) 1774/2002.